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Cont. analyte determinations, especially for DNA- and RNA analytics, for the generation of toxicity studies and the determination of gene or protein expression profiles and for the determination of antibodies, antigens, pathogens or bacteria in pharmaceutical product development and research, human and veterinary diagnostics, agrochemical product development and research, for patient stratification in pharmaceutical product development and for the therapeutic drug selection, for the determination of pathogens, nocuous agents and germs, especially of salmonella, prions, viruses and bacteria, in food and environmental analytics.

(A copy of the marked-up version of amended claims is attached to this Preliminary Amendment).

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner as well as his supervisor for the courtesies extended during the March 28, 2002 personal interview during which the filing of a Preliminary Amendment was discussed, whereby claim 1 referred to "chemoanalytical, bioanalytical and biodiagnostic use" and claim 26 was modified to refer to only the sensor platform according to claim 18 in order to establish a more definitive division between claims 1-41 and 42-92.

Accordingly, the above amendment makes those changes so that claims 26-41 are now referenced solely to claim 18.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request a response concerning the status of the inventions defined by claims 1-62 and 77-92 based on the above Amendment and the discussion in the March 28, 2002 personal interview.

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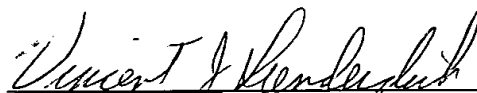
Entry of the amendments to the claims before examination of the application is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Evenson, McKeown, Edwards & Lenahan, P.L.L.C., Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #622ZI/48609CP).

Respectfully submitted,

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VJS/leb

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 1, 26 and 41 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A waveguide plate for chemoanalytical, bioanalytical and biodiagnostic use with a plate-like glass substrate, carrying a waveguiding layer, with at least one coupling grating on the surface carrying said waveguiding layer, which coupling grating is formed as a grating of lines with a period between 150 nm and 1000 nm, the extension of said grating being at least 5 cm with lines parallel to one another,

wherein the coupling angle (Θ) varies by not more than 0.1 %/cm along a line of said grating and wherein the absolute value of the deviation of the coupling angle on said waveguide plate, from a predefined desired value, does not exceed 0.5°.

26. (AMENDED) A method for the simultaneous qualitative and/or quantitative determination of a multitude of analytes, with a component of the group of components formed by a [waveguide plate according to Claim 1, or a] sensor platform according to claim 18 [or an arrangement of sample compartments according to claim 23], wherein one or more liquid samples, to be analyzed for said one or more analytes, are brought into contact with the measurement areas on one of said components, excitation light is launched towards the measurement areas, and wherein at least one of (A) light emanating from the measurement areas and (B) optionally one or more luminescences from the measurement areas brought into contact with said sample or said samples, resulting from the binding of one or more analytes to the biological or biochemical or synthetic recognition elements immobilized in said measurement areas or resulting from the interaction between

said analytes and said immobilized recognition elements, are measured, wherein said luminescences are generated in the near-field of the waveguiding layer.

41.(AMENDED) The use of a component from the group of components formed by a [waveguide plate according to claim 1, a] sensor platform according to claim 18, [and an arrangement of sample compartments according to claim 23,] and/or of a method according to claim 26, for quantitative and/or qualitative analyses for the determination of chemical, biochemical or biological analytes in screening methods in pharmaceutical research, combinatorial chemistry, clinical and preclinical development, for realtime binding studies and the determination of kinetic parameters in affinity screening and in research, for qualitative and quantitative analyte determinations, especially for DNA- and RNA analytics, for the generation of toxicity studies and the determination of gene or protein expression profiles and for the determination of antibodies, antigens, pathogens or bacteria in pharmaceutical product development and research, human and veterinary diagnostics, agrochemical product development and research, for patient stratification in pharmaceutical product development and for the therapeutic drug selection, for the determination of pathogens, nocuous agents and germs, especially of salmonella, prions, viruses and bacteria, in food and environmental analytics.